

REPORT
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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Aeronautical Instruments Plant of PAL
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1. Two factories, the former Hodek and Kadlec factory and the aeronautical instruments factory at Troja near Prague, have been combined and placed under PAL (Pomocny automobilovy a letecky priemysel--Auxiliary Automobile and Aircraft Industry), whose offices are at Prague VII, Zavesky 5. This combined plant produces several types of air navigation compasses such as directional compasses, gyro-compasses, and radio compasses; aircraft fuel gauges; revolution counters, and electric revolution indicators; under-carriage position indicators, and similar items; and workers state that most of this production goes to the USSR. A large amount of compasses was left behind by the Germans. The plant has a modern refrigerating room for testing finished instruments at various temperatures. Such tests are supervised by experts from the Ministry of Defense. The plant is considered to be an exemplar of cleanliness.
2. Raw materials such as metal casts are brought to the plant by trucks from Letnary. When small quantities of raw materials are obtained from Letnary, the plant has them picked up in its own automobile, an Opel-Kapitan, which has had its rear seats removed. In the event an instrument that was acquired from Western countries proves to be useful, PAL has it copied. Instruments labeled "Made in USA" have been observed undergoing this copying process. 50X1-HUM
3. From time to time, there is a critical shortage of so-called hair--fine bronze wires imported [redacted] This hair is indispensable in the manufacture of electro-magnetic revolution indicators and other special instruments. The administration of PAL has demanded that the Ministry of Foreign Trade increase the import of such hair. Should the Ministry comply with this demand, it would be possible to increase production by working two or possibly three shifts.
4. The plant obtains its power from the Holesovice power plant. This creates difficulty in some of the departments in the plant, since the Holesovice current is 43-46 cycles, whereas the plant requires a 50-cycle current at all times.
5. Two hundred workers and thirty clerical employees work in this plant. Working hours are from 0600 to 1400 hours in the summer, and from 0800 to 1600 hours in the winter--an eight-hour shift daily. Average wages are 30 Kcs. per hour. The factory canteen provides excellent meals, which are financed by factory

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funds, at 120 Kcs. per month. Most of the workers were assigned by the labor office. Among them are thirty watchmakers who have been deprived of their shops in Prague. Every new employee must sign an oath of secrecy, and not even families of employees may learn what is done in the factory. PAL is considered an important military objective. Morale is not deemed satisfactory. Since most of the workers are highly skilled and thus irreplaceable, they indulge in constant reactionary criticism against the regime but are not punished. Any workers interested in self-instruction can obtain American and British publications on aeronautics from the plant library. Workers are treated liberally and with much consideration.

6. The plant has frequent visitors. Recently, two high-ranking Polish officers were allowed to make detailed notes on the work and machinery. Personnel leaving the plant are subject to search by the gatekeepers, but this search is frequently not made.

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